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20 YEARS!
1987-2007
C!N
ARTHUR ADAMS
Red Sonja

Reed Co-Writes Sonja

Michael Avon Oeming, who has racked up an impressive run as solo writer of Dynamite's ***Red Sonja*** series, is about to be joined by a co-writer who's no stranger to collaborative projects. Beginning with this summer's ***Red Sonja #25***, *Brian Reed*—who's well known for his collaboration with *Brian Bendis* on ***New Avengers: Illuminati*** as well as his solo work on ***Ms. Marvel***— will assume the co-writing honors on the sword and sorcery series.

How did Reed, whose comics work has appeared primarily from Marvel until now, land the ***Red Sonja*** gig? "I've always admired Reed's work," Oeming said, "so when I felt like I needed some help with my schedule, he was the first writer I asked Dynamite to recruit—and thank God, we got him!"

"Mike called me up out of the blue and asked if I'd be interested in joining him for an arc," Reed said. "I've been a fan of Mike's for awhile, so I pretty much leapt at the chance."

"Mike mentioned he was having some scheduling problems because he was getting so much writing work—and that's the sort of problem a lot of writers would be glad to experience— so he wanted a 'helping hand,'" publisher *Nick Barrucci* added, "so we discussed it and talked about Brian and were lucky enough that Brian was ready, willing and able! Now Mike's with us for the long haul, and we couldn't be happier!"

Is this Reed's first non-Marvel writing assignment? "Yep—everything so far has been Marvel, but with Mike's offer to work with him on ***Sonja*** also came the chance to work outside the House of Ideas."

Who's doing what on each issue? "I start with the outline," Oeming said, "and Brian then has input; from there, we go to script—and again, Brian is there every step of the way."

"Mike handles the 'big picture' plotting of the book, since it's a series he's been doing for a couple of years and he has a great handle on where it's going next," Reed elaborated. "I've been doing the detail work, tying it all together and making all of his ideas jive as a single story. Then we do the same thing again in the script phase. It's been a lot of fun to work this way since it's really been Mike inviting me into his sandbox and encouraging me to do whatever I want with his ideas, if that's to embrace them or throw them out the window and come up with something else."

Was Reed familiar with ***Red Sonja*** before accepting the assignment, or did he have to do some homework to get "up to speed" on the character? "I really only knew Sonja as *Brigitte Nielsen*, and admitted as much to Mike the day we first talked. The guys at Dynamite were great and sent me over a huge box with absolutely *everything* Sonja, and I spent a weekend in my office reading up on the She-Devil With a Sword."

How much advance work has Oeming done before landing Reed as his ***Sonja*** collaborator? "We had the year mapped out, but when we got into this arc's particulars, Brian was a part of the process."

How does Reed envision Sonja? "When Sonja was a child, she was raped and left for dead after witnessing her entire family being killed. Her whole life has become focused on getting revenge for that one moment in time—even when she thinks she's doing something else, Sonja is really driven by that need to avenge her family and punish the forces of evil behind the men who harmed her."

As it turns out, ***Red Sonja #25*** is more than a jumping-on point for *Brian Reed*. "We're using ***Red Sonja #25*** as a jumping on point for new readers," Reed said. "Sonja has been involved in some pretty crazy adventures on the other side of the world, and when she and her group return home, they find that the evil sorcerer Kulan Gath - the man behind all of Sonja's troubles in life - has all but conquered this side of the world. It's a big, exciting, filled-with-action story."

Any chance that Reed will go solo in chronicling Sonja's adventures at some point in the near future? "There's nothing in the works at the moment," Reed said, "but that doesn't mean that it's not a possibility!"

While there are changes in store for the writing staff, the look of ***Red Sonja*** will remain the same as artist *Homs* continues to provide the visuals for the series. Can the artist maintain the title's monthly schedule, or will he need other artists to assist him with interim arcs? "I can keep a monthly schedule pencilling and inking, normally, without any problems, although there are months when it's more difficult, like December with Christmas and all—but if I lose a day, I'm usually able to recover it within the next month. I've been able to keep up a monthly schedule for almost a year now, counting the ***Frozen Wastes*** miniseries, with no fill-ins or interruptions, so I'm confident that deadlines will be no problem."

What does Homs enjoy most about illustrating Sonja's exploits? "What I like the most is the script's pacing and the variety of settings, and creatures—I enjoy having new things to illustrate almost non-stop. Every three months you are doing completely different things.

"That's what fascinates me, and, at the same time, it's a challenge because you have to create new things in every single issue, rather than working with something that was already designed that you only have to adapt and follow it. Also, doing an issue per month has been a great challenge because it's a pace I wasn't used to, but it has helped me to get better and evolve at a surprising rate."

Oeming credits Homs' art with a significant role in ***Red Sonja's*** continued success. "There's a level of detail he brings that makes the whole *world* of ***Red Sonja*** feel more real. It's amazing stuff!"

Red Sonja #25 marks the beginning of Sonja's third year as a Dynamite star; did Barrucci ever envision the series achieving such success when he was first launching it with a 25¢ preview issue back in May of 2005? "As we head towards issue #25, we constantly remind ourselves of all the hard work and dedication we put in and got back from the fans and creators," Barrucci said, "and we'll continue to work just as hard as we head towards issue #50 and beyond!"

At this rate, it's very possible that Dynamite's run might surpass Marvel's. "The sense of history is certainly not lost on us," Barrucci said, "but we couldn't have done it with out Mike (and his initial co-writer *Mike Carey*, who worked with him on the first six issues) and Mel and now Homs and Brian!"

Sonja has already starred in one crossover adventure, a WildStorm-published miniseries that teamed her with ***Claw the Unconquered***. As it turns out, though, there's another ***Red Sonja*** crossover in the works—one that teams her with Spider-Man... for the second time, no less! Barrucci offered a little history lesson. "The cross-over keys off the events of the Spidey/Sonja ***Marvel Team-up*** (#79, which also featured Kulan Gath) and ***Uncanny X-Men #s 188-191***, which featured Gath and his take-over of Manhattan. In our new cross-over, he's back and he's got a different plan, so it's up to Spidey and Sonja to stop him—if they can do it before they kill each other first! And did we mention that this story also features the deadly Eddie Brock Venom?"

Barrucci is already looking further ahead in planning out Sonja's future. "Towards the end of the year, we'll be readying another ***Red Sonja/Thulsa Doom*** mini-series, ***Doom of the Gods***, and a few more one-shots and specials, as well as her appearance in ***Savage Tales***!"

Red Sonja #25, a $2.99 comic scheduled for late July release, will be offered with four different covers by *Art Adams & Laura Martin, Mel Rubi, Ariel Olivetti*, and *Paul Renaud*.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

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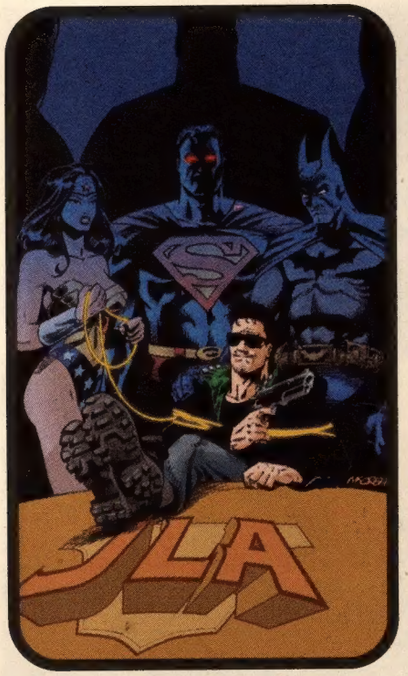

First Step in a Hit Parade?

Could this be the first step in the long-awaited return of ***Hitman*** to a position of prominence in the DC Universe? Too early to say—but we *can* confirm that Tommy Monaghan is returning to the DCU in a new three-issue miniseries, ***Hitman/JLA***, slated to debut later this year. And yes, it will be produced by *Garth Ennis & John McCrea*, the team responsible for the cult-favorite ***Hitman*** series.

The series, originally planned as a ***JLA Classified*** story arc, could—if it proves sufficiently successful—pave the way for a reissue of the ***Hitman*** trade paperbacks... and perhaps even a continuation of the trade run, bringing the entire ***Hitman*** series back into print.

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Drawing Attention

Image co-founder *Jim Valentino* may be best known for his work on such superhero properties as ***Guardians of the Galaxy***, ***ShadowHawk***, and ***Blacklight***, but long-time aficionados of Valentino's work also appreciate his work drawn from his own life.

In the 1990's, Valentino's ***A Touch of Silver*** offered a moving and sometimes disturbing look at his younger years. Now, he's offering a somewhat lighter-hearted look at his later experiences in ***Drawing from Life***, a comic featuring short stories drawn from various offbeat Valentino experiences.

Valentino describes ***Drawing from Life*** as "an autobiographic black and white comic. All [of the stories], save one, were drawn in the last couple of months. A couple of them were scribbled out for a future Valentino book and a couple more were verbal stories. Almost all of the auto-bio stories start out as verbal tellings. That's where I get the timing down for them and, according to *Kris [Simon* – Shadowline's editor], they're far better told than they are on paper.

"Each story is separate entity unto itself. There's no continuity save for they all happened to the same person, me. The old one is 'Th' Kid'z First Sale.' It's never been reprinted before (the story is circa 1980). I was going to re-draw it, but then I figured, screw it, I just ran it as is. Hopefully young struggling artists will relate."

Valentino explained to ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Ryan McLelland* why he chose to return to the autobiographical comic format. " I've been going through this weird re-visiting stage--***normalman***, ***ShadowHawk***, and now this. It was also due to constant harping by friends *Charles Brownstein, Eric Stephenson* and *Kris Simon*. I guess it's a sign of encroaching senility—that, or an act of desperation. Take your pick, I'm not proud!"

Valentino is quite proud of his Shadowline imprint, which is the home for his superhero work, his autobiographical comics, as well as such titles as ***Bomb Queen, Sam Noir, Ward of the State***, and ***After The Cape***. "Shadowline is dedicated to offering a diverse line of titles from superheroes with a twist to more indy style books," Valentino explained. "Genre classifications are not relevant to our publishing philosophy not is format, thus some of our books are in color, others in black-and-white and soon we'll be moving into art books, original graphic novels, etc.

"***Drawing From Life*** adds to that diversity of content. If you like comics with a more indy flavor, humor, and real life weirdness,you'll like this book."

Like all of us, Valentino has gone through his share of bad experiences—but while most us try to forget ours, Valentino uses them as the substance of some of his tales. One story has a young Valentino going to work for a mulleted man who has a vision of the next big thing in comics. Jim, a newbie who is looking to be the next big thing, tries to put just the tiniest bit of sense into his new boss. Alas, Jim doesn't get through to the guy and settles back for the role of 'opinionated artist who hates his current job working for an idiot but can sure use the money'.

Valentino describes the process of transforming these experiences into comic book tales as "kind of like looking at old photographs. You remember that person used to be you and those people used to be in your life, but you're not necessarily that individual anymore so you can look back with some humor or some perspective."

Is there any chance that ***Drawing from Life*** might be the first in a series of autobiographical books from Valentino? "I would call this an 'occasional' book. There may be another in six months, there may be another in six years—I can't say. Remember, these books tell *me* when they're coming; I have no control over them."

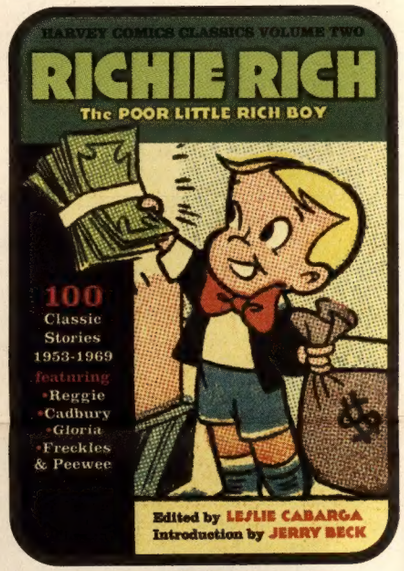
Drawing from Life is scheduled for late May release.

WHEN WE GOT THERE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SOMETHING WAS GOING DOWN...
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
I DUNNO... SOMETHING.
A HUGE CROWD WAS GATHERED ON THE SAND, MOST LIKELY PROTESTING THE WAR. ANOTHER CROWD OF ON-LOOKERS WERE ON THE STEPS LEADING DOWN TO THE BEACH.
SEE ANYTHING, KID?
RUNNY.
THE SOUND OF SIRENS FILLED THE AIR.
POLICE
POLICE HELICOPTERS HOVERED, ORDERING THE CROWD TO DISPERSE...
...AND, AS USUAL IN THOSE DAYS, A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION TURNED INTO SOMETHING FAR WORSE! PEOPLE BEGAN RUNNING AWAY FROM THE BEACH IN PANIC!
LOOKS LIKE A RIOT, BOYS!
BEATLES
SO WE WENT INTO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, OF COURSE!

Dark Horse Has Colorful Plans for Harvey

This issue of ***CSN*** has news about Dark Horse's second black-and-white Harvey omnibus (see ***Coming Comics—Dark Horse in August*** elsewhere in this issue for more details)—but there's even better news for fans of the well-remembered publisher best known for decades of delightful all-ages comics.

"We are doing three ***Harvey Omnibus*** volumes, featuring ***Casper, Hot Stuff***, and ***Richie Rich***," Dark Horse publisher *Mike Richardson* told ***CSN***. "We will then begin a color reprint program, which may consist of a trade consisting of a variety of Harvey characters in color. as well as some hardcover archive editions. Each of these programs will continue until they are no longer financially feasible or we run out of material—and as you know, there is a great deal of that!"



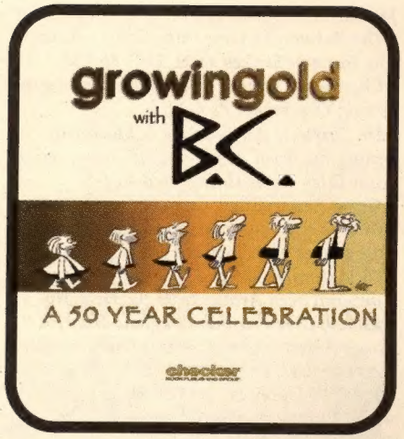
Considering the prestigious position that Casper and Richie Rich hold in popular culture, the possibility of future full-color volumes is good news indeed. Any chance of new material? Dark Horse isn't saying... but if the reprints do well enough, you can rest assured that talks about new tales will definitely take place!

Checker Looks Ahead to B.C.

Ironically, when comic strip great *Johnny Hart* passed on in early May, there wasn't a single collection of his work in print. That will be remedied by Checker Book Publishing Group this summer, however, with the release of ***Johnny Hart's GrowinGold with B.C.: A 50 Year Celebration***.

Hart personally worked on the book up until his untimely passing in early April of this year He personally selected the nearly 500 ***B.C*** strips that comprise the book, as well as providing the original cover art. Hart also provided never-before-seen concept art from the strip's beginnings in the 1950's and gave insight as to how the characters were named (usually after family friends).

While Hart is no longer alive to see the book through its final stages, ***Johnny Hart's GrowinGold with B.C.*** will see release with the assistance and cooperation of the Hart family, who were eager to see his strip's role



in comics history recognized. Starting with the strip's earliest beginning, in 1958, to the present, 2007, these strips will delight anyone who has followed the antics of Peter, Thor, Fat Broad, Wiley, and all the rest of the cast in a prehistoric world populated by dinosaurs, ants and anteaters.

During his life, Hart and his acclaimed strip won multiple awaråds, including Best Humor Strip in America, National Cartoonist Society, 1967; The Reuben, Cartoonist of the Year, National Cartoonist Society, 1968; The Yellow Kid Award, International Congress of Comics, 1970; and the Seger Award, King Features, 1981.

Johnny Hart's GrowinGold with B.C., a 9" x 9" trade paperback that reproduces each strip in its original size, is scheduled for August release. A limited edition hardcover is scheduled for release at a later date.

Better Than Science Fiction

Jim Ottaviani is back to wow us once again with a new pair of fact-based science-inspired graphic novels, along with a reissue of one of his most acclaimed works. Readers who aren't familiar with Ottaviani's work are in for a treat; his company, G-T Labs, specializes in graphic novelizations of real-world events and personalities from the world of science.

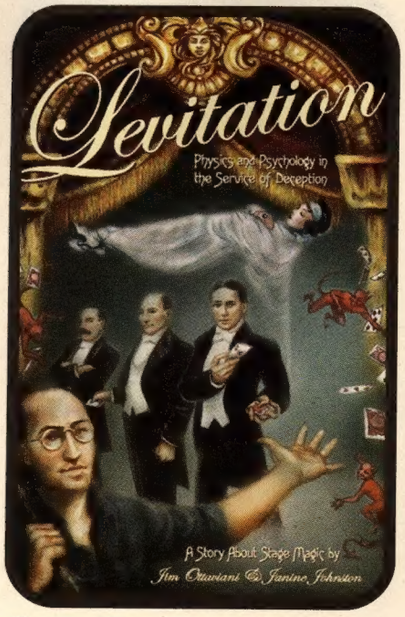
The first new offering is ***Levitation: Physics and Psychology in the Service of Deception***, which, according to Ottaviani, "mixes science, magic, and larceny in a true story of the greatest gravity-defying illusion ever performed on stage.

"***Levitation*** features a cast of characters that seems too good to be true... The Scientist: John Neville Maskelyne, the oh-so-proper British magician and the trick's inventor. The American: Harry Kellar couldn't buy the illusion, so he found another way to get it. The Inventor: Guy Jarrett, the rough-and-tumble engineer who perfected the illusion. The Heir: Howard Thurston, the handsome and charismatic performer who inherited the act from Kellar and then ruined it.

"Or did he? Nothing in this amazing true story is what it seems! So join us on stage and behind it and learn not only how to defy gravity, but why people believed you could."

The second new book, ***Wire Mothers: Harry Harlow and the Science of Love***, "presents the intersection between science and emotion in the true story of one man's quest to prove that love is real, that it's learned, and that it matters.

"Psychologists know best, of course, and in the 1950s they warned parents about the dangers of too much love. Besides, what was 'love' anyway? Just a convenient name for children seeking food and adults seeking sex. It took an outsider scientist to challenge this. When Harry Harlow began his experiments on mother love, he was more than just outside the mainstream, though. He was a deeply unhappy man who knew in his gut the truth about what love—and its absence—meant, and set about to prove it. His experiments and results shocked the world."


Levitation
Physics and Psychology in the Service of Deception
A Story About Stage Magic by
Jim Ottaviani & Janine Johnston

At the same time these two new offerings are released, G.T. Labs is also reissuing ***Bone Sharps, Cowboys, and Thunder Lizards***, the fascinating story of illustrator *Charles R. Knight*, who was considered the pre-eminent dinosaur illustrator of the 20th Century. "The extra boost here," Ottaviani added, "is that with every copy [of the reissue], you get a *free* copy of the *Charles R. Knight* autobiography... The book features illustrations by *Mark Schultz*, forewords by *Ray Bradbury* and *Ray Harryhausen*, and an introduction by *William Stout*."

Look for both original books, as well as the reissued ***Bone Sharps***, in July.

Coming Comics— DC in August

From the ashes of devastated Bialya they rise again come the Four Horsemen — War, Pestilence, Famine, Death — living embodiments of the Dread Ages of Apokolips. In ***52 Aftermath: The Four Horsemen***, a oneshot by *Keith Giffen, Pat Oliffe, & Drew Geraci*, the Horsemen look to their own dark ambition, to remake the Earth in their image — and only the combined might of Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman can stop them!

The stunning art of *J.G. Jones* is spotlighted in ***52: The Covers***, a 128-page hardcover that offers high-quality reproductions of all the covers—including the ones Jones created for the novelization and the four collected editions—along with commentary by the artist, thumbnail sketches, background information, and more.

The surprise hero of **52** graduates to his own title in August, courtesy of *Geoff Johns, Jeff Katz, & Dan Jurgens*. ***The All-New Booster Gold*** begins with Booster trying to get what he feels he's due: a spot on the Justice League of America! But the time stream's in trouble, and Booster Gold is in the center of it! Now he must make a choice: reclaim his former glory or do the right thing, foregoing the credit.

The ***Countdown*** tie-in trilogy continues in ***Action Comics #s 853 & 854*** with the Kryptonite Man on the loose, Mr. Action on the prowl, and Superman on the ropes! Plus, a certain long-lost superdog returns…but what does fate hold for Jimmy Olsen? And what's that about a giant monkey?

Gail Simone, Mike Norton, & Trevor Scott continue "The Hunt for Ray Palmer" in ***The All-New Atom #14.*** Ryan Choi, Donna Troy, Jason Todd and Bob the Monitor continue to search the Nanoverse for Ray Palmer — and the travelers find themselves in what some might call…Heaven.

The all-star writing team of *Geoff Johns & Richard Donner* is joined by ***Goon*** artist *Eric Powell* for the three-part "Escape from Bizarro World" beginning in ***Action Comics #855.*** It begins when Bizarro returns to kidnap one of the most important people in Superman's life. But what does the twisted, ersatz Man of Steel want? The only way to find out is to travel to the enemy's home: Bizarro World!

The war comes to a shocking end with the release of two issues of ***Amazons Attack*** in August, courtesy of *Will Pfeifer & Pete Woods*. The heroes face a shocking new force aligning with the Amazons; and as the fatalities pile up on the Amazon side, Hippolyta's grasp on the throne may be slipping. In the finale, Wonder Woman takes on Hippolyta in a duel that can have only one outcome; the true reasons behind the war are discovered; and the gods make their presence known in a terrible way!

Black Adam, the über-villain of **52**, stars in his own limited series with the release of ***Black Adam: The Dark Age*** by *Peter Tomasi, Dug Mahnke, Norm Rapmund, & Christian Alamy*. With the power of the gods stripped from him, Teth-Adam is on a quest to find not only the magical word that will restore him as Black Adam, but also the one thing that always kept his heart from turning completely black with rage.

Peter Milligan, David Lopez, & Alvaro Lopez present the definitive origin of Ra's al Ghul, Batman's greatest foe, in ***Batman Annual #26: Head of the Demon.*** A deadly rivalry

between two immortals spanning more than four hundred years of history causes a chain reaction that not even Batman could have predicted! Learn how the secret past of this legendary villain has a reverberating effect on the future of the Dark Knight.

Sam Kieth brings together an unlikely team in ***Batman/Lobo: Deadly Serious***, a two-part prestige-format limited series. Batman, transported to an alien vessel by a mysterious figure, is asked to help cure a plague that has infected its inhabitants. Lobo, who has also been shanghaied, finds himself in the same boat. Now, Batman and Lobo, two incredibly unlikely companions, must somehow find a way to work together — and find out the real reason for their abductions — before they kill each other!

When word reaches Oracle that Black Canary is considering a marriage proposal from Green Arrow, Barbara decides she must play devil's advocate to ensure Dinah doesn't make the biggest mistake of her life. Plus...a New God dies—and it all happens in ***Birds of Prey #109***, courtesy of *Tony Bedard, Nicola Scott, & Doug Hazlewood.*

Beetle runs with the Titans in *John Rogers & Rafael Albuquerque's* ***Blue Beetle #18***, a story that crosses over with ***Teen Titans #50.***

Half the DCU guest-stars in *Mark Waid & George Pérez's* ***Brave & Bold #6.*** Green Lantern and Batman are horrified to discover the secret to the theft of the Book of Destiny, but before it can reach its rightful owner, the Book winds up in the hands of the only heroes in the DCU who *aren't* in its pages! How it that possible?

Will Pfeifer, David Lopez, & Alvaro Lopez present an ***Amazons Attack*** tie-in in ***Catwoman #70.*** Catwoman's on the run and undercover. Batman chose her to infiltrate a new player in the Amazons' war on the U.S.—but with her life in shambles, can she be trusted?

If Checkmate's powerful enough to have a takedown plan for every hero and villain on Earth, why isn't its Alpine headquarters under assault 24-7? Well, it *is* — which is why it needs a Master Jailer to keep it running, in ***Checkmate #17***, a stand-alone story by *Greg Rucka & Eric Trautmann*, with art by *Chris Samnee.*

Zatanna, the Teen Titans, the JLA, Poison Ivy, the Penguin, the Atom and oodles of other heroes play a part in ***Countdown #s 39-35***, courtesy of *Paul Dini, Sean McKeever, Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Adam Beechen, Tony Bedard, Keith Giffen,* and others. Karate Kid ventures to Oracle for answers. Jimmy Olsen attempts to join not one but two exclusive clubs. Mary Marvel falls deeper into temptation. And Donna Troy and Jason Todd journey into the Nanoverse! And if that's not enough, check out the backup features recounting the origins of DC's greatest villains, beginning in ***Countdown #38.***

Adam Strange, Starfire, and Animal Man graduate from the pages of ***52*** to their own eight-part limited series in ***Countdown to Adventure*** by *Adam Beechen, Justin Gray, Eddy Barrows, Fabrizio Fiorentino, & Julio Ferreira.* Now that they've returned to their respective homes, where do they go from here?

John Rozum & Tom Mandrake kick off a two-part Scarecrow tale in ***Detective Comics #835.***

Rex Mundi creator *Arvid Nelson* spotlights Mr. Terrific in the three-part "Mr. Horrific," beginning in ***JSA Classified 329.***

Brad Meltzer's run on ***Justice League of America*** comes to an end in the twelfth issue with a shocking cliffhanger. "Monitor Duty" presents an amazing day in the lives of the world's greatest heroes, as only the League's artist *Ed Benes* could envision!

Geoff Johns & Fernando Pasarin spotlight Liberty Belle in ***Justice Society of America #8*** as she races to stop the Society's young recruit Damage from making the worst mistake of his life. Meanwhile, Starman helps Power Girl make a startling discover concerning the 52.

From the pages of ***Superman/Batman***, Doc Magnus's creations graduate to their own miniseries with the release of *Duncan Rouleau's* ***Metal Men #1.*** Gold, Platina, Mercury, Iron, Lead, Tin, and Copper are ready to take on threats old and new, including Chemo and Le Cabinet Noir.

Learn the origin of the new Vigilante in ***Nightwing #135*** by *Marv Wolfman, Jamal Igle, & Keith Champagne.*

Batman takes control of the Outsiders this summer... and you can see who he's considering for his new lineup in ***Outsiders: Five of a Kind***, a series of oneshots featuring a different team-up (and a different creative team) in each weekly issue. It begins with ***Nightwing/Boomerang*** by *Nunzio DeFilippis, Christina Weir, & Freddie Williams II;* then comes ***Katana/Shazam*** by *Mike W. Barr, Kevin Sharpe, & Robin Riggs;* next is ***Thunder/Martian Manhunter*** by *Tony Bedard, Koi Turnbull, & Art Thibert;* then ***Metamorpho/Aquaman*** by *G. Willow Wilson & Joshua Middleton;* and finale, ***Grace/Wonder Woman*** by *Marc Andreyko, Cliff Richards, & Art Thibert.*

Meet the Spirit's most fearsome new foe, El Morte, in *Darwyn Cooke & J. Bone's* ***Spirit #9.*** The gangs in Central City are being ritualistically destroyed, and now the killer is targeting The Spirit. All the clues point to Alvarro Mortez, the criminal who died with Denny Colt on that fateful night The Spirit came to be...

Supergirl learns a terrible lesson in ***Supergirl #20***, an ***Amazons Attack*** tie-in by *Tony Bedard, Renato Guedes, & Jose Wilson Magalhães.*

The United Planets blames Cosmic Boy for war crimes! Star Boy and Sun Boy must clear his name in ***Supergirl and the LEgion of Super-Heroes #33*** by *Tony Bedard & Dennis Calero.* But they'll have to outsmart a certain matter-eating prosecutor and overcome a shocking development on planet Winath that threatens Lightning Lad's family.

Guest artist *Walter Simonson* joins writer *Kurt Busiek* for the most nightmarish adventure in the Man of Steel's career in ***Superman #666.*** The Phantom Stranger, Zatanna, the Demon, and a host of other guest stars make an appearance as Superman goes to Hell to discover the truth about "The Beast from Krypton."

Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Koi Turnbull, & Sandra Hope present the return of Lori Lemaris in ***Superman Confidential #7.***

Sean McKeever & Randy Green begin their run on ***Teen Titans*** beginning with #50, a special issue that also features the first new Teen Titans story in years by team creators *Marv Wolfman & George Perez.* And if that's not enough, *Geoff Johns & Mike McKone*—the creators who launched the current run of the series—reunite for a third tale.

In ***Wonder Woman #12***, an ***Amazons Attack*** tie-in, Wonder Woman begins a desperate search for a missing comrade whose fate is inextricably tied to the future of Special Agent Diana Prince.

DC collected editions include:

•***52 Volume Three***, collecting the lead stories from ***52 Weeks 27-39;***

•***Batman: Gothic***, a new edition of the long out-of-print tale by *Grant Morrison & Klaus Janson;*

•***The Batman Strikes: Duty Calls***, collecting ***The Batman Strikes #s 11-14 & 16-18;***

•***Checkmate Volume Two: Pawn Breaks***, collecting ***Checkmate #s 8-12;***

•***Dr. Thirteen: Architecture & Mortality***, collecting the *Brian Azzarello-Cliff Chiang* serial from ***Tales of the Unexpected #s 1-8;***

•***Green Arrow/Black Canary: For Better or Worse***, a trip down memory lane that presents stories from ***Justice League of America #75, Action #s 428 & 434, Joker #4, Green Lantern/Green Arrow #s 94-95, Detective #s 549-500, Green Arrow: Longbow Hunters #1, Green Arrow v1 #s 75 & 101; Green Arrow v2 #s 4, 5, 12, & 21;*** and ***Birds of Prey #88;***

•***Ion: The Dying Flame Volume 2***, collecting #s 7-12 of the maxiseries starring Kyle Rayner;

•***The JSA All Stars Archives Volume One***, a hardcover featuring the solo Golden Age adventures of Johnny Thunder, Hour-Man, Atom, Dr. Mid-Nite, Mr. Terrific, Wildcat and Red Tornado from ***Flash, Adventure, All-American, & Sensation Comics*** (1940-1942);

•***Justice Volume Three***, a hardcover compilation of *Jim Krueger, Alex Ross, & Doug Braithwaite's* ***Justice #s 9-12;***

•***Original Encyclopedia of Comic Book Heroes Volume Three: Superman***, reprinting the long-out-of-print *Michael Fleisher* reference book;

•***Shazam: The Monster Society of Evil Deluxe HC***, collecting the acclaimed miniseries by ***Bone*** creator *Jeff Smith;*

•***Showcase Presents Batman & the Outsiders Volume One***, collecting ***Batman & the Outsiders #s 1-19, Brave & Bold #200,*** and ***New Titans #16;***

•***Showcase Presents Captain Carrot Volume One***, collecting ***New Teen Titans #16*** and ***Captain Carrot & the Zoo Crew #s 1-20;***

•***The Spirit Volume One***, a hardcover compilation of the first six issues of *Darwyn Cooke's* acclaimed series;

•***Supergirl & the Legion of Super-Heroes: The Dominator War***, collecting #s 26-30;

•***Sword of the Atom***, a 232-page trade paperback collecting ***Sword of the Atom #s 1-4*** and ***Sword of the Atom Special #s 1-3;*** and

•***Teen Titans: Titans East***, collecting the Deathstroke tale from #s 42-47.

Coming Comics—CMX/DC in September

After a king and his eldest son die, the kingdom of Laudere is left without a ruler. Asta, the last surviving member of the royal family, stands in line for the throne. But before he can claim it, he must fulfill a quest: find the legendary "Key to the Kingdom." His quest is the focus of *Kyoko Shitou's* ***Keys of the Kingdom***, the latest series from the well-known fantasy manga creator.

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in August

Creator/writer *Brian K. Vaughan* is joined by artist *John Paul Leon* for ***Ex Machina: Masquerade Special***, an extra-length issue that offers new readers a great entry point into this complex, provocative series. For the first time ever, learn what role New York City's real-world "anti-mask law" played in the birth of the Great Machine.

Keith Giffen takes over as writer beginning with ***Midnighter #10***, joining artists *Chris Sprouse & Karl Story* for a tale that finds the usually self-assured hero forced to evaluate his superheroic role.

WildStorm collected editions include:

- ***A Nightmare on Elm Street***, collecting #s 1-3 & 5-7 of the series;
- ***Friday the 13th***, collecting the first six issues of the film-inspired series; and
- ***Texas Chainsaw Massacre***, collecting the first six issues of the series.

Coming Comics—Minx/DC in September

When Tasha's mom brings home an annoying hack novelist boyfriend, Jed, and his deadpan daughter, her dysfunctional family is headed for a complete mental meltdown. But Tasha's blog is her weapon — and she's not afraid to use it. Especially when she starts to suspect that the obnoxious Jed has a guilty secret that goes far beyond his bad prose. See how her writing affects everyone around her in ***Confession of a Blabbermouth***, an original graphic novel by *Mike Carey, Louise Carey, & Aaron Alexovich.*

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in September

The deluxe repackaging of *Neil Gaiman's* definitive work continues with the release of ***The Absolute Sandman Volume Two***, a slip-cased hardcover that collects ***Sandman #s 21-39***, complete with remastered coloring on all nineteen issues as well as brand-new inks on ***The Sandman #34*** by the issue's original penciller, *Colleen Doran*. In addition, the volume will feature a generous selection of bonus material, including two never-before-reprinted stories by Gaiman (one prose and one illustrated), a complete reproduction of the never-before-reprinted one-shot ***The Sandman: The Gallery of Dreams***, and the complete script and pencils by Gaiman and Kelley Jones for Chapter Two of "Season of Mists" from ***The Sandman #23.***

The Swamp Thing's former adversaries, originally created decades ago by *Len Wein & Bernie Wrightson*, return in ***The Un-Men***, a new series by *John Whalen & Mike Hawthorne* that explores what it means to be a freak in a society filled with gawkers. An albino agent known as Kilcrop is dispatched by the government to solve the murder of a sideshow attraction called "The Gill-Boy." To uncover the truth, Kilcrop must infiltrate Aberrance, where society's most misshapen outcasts find their own kind of freedom. But with the original Un-Men in charge, Kilcrop finds himself involved in a world he doesn't truly understand.

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***DMZ Volume Three: Public Works***, collecting ***DMZ #s 13-17;***
- ***Hellblazer: The Gift***, collecting ***Hellblazer #s 207-215;*** and
- ***Sandman Mystery Theatre: Sleep of Reason***, collecting the *John Ney Reiber-Eric Nguyen* limited series.

Coming from DC Direct

DC Direct kicks off its ***Ame-Comi Girls PVC Statue*** line in January 2008; these sculpts feature distinctive manga-styled interpretations of DC Comics female heroines and their foes. The line will begin with the ***Ame-Comi: Batgirl PVC Figure*** and ***Ame-Comi: Catwoman PVC Figure;*** of course, other figures are coming, including Supergirl and Wonder Woman.

The latest addition to DC's ***Batman Black and White Statue*** series is a 6.25" tall *Jon Mathews* sculpture based on the art of *Andy Kubert*. Look for it in January.

DC's heroes are suited up and ready for action—and you can see them in their armored glory in the ***DC Armory Action Figure*** series, which includes ***Armored Aquaman, Armored Batman, Flamebird, & Nightwing.***

Phil Jimenez's art is the inspiration for the ***Infinite Crisis Action Figure Box Set***, featuring modified versions of battle-damaged Superman, classic costumed Batman with a new head sculpt, Wonder Woman in her classic costume, and Omac with additional hand accessories.

The ***Justice Action Figure Series*** continues with the release of the seventh wave in January. Based on the art of *Alex Ross*, this series will feature articulated figures of ***Gorilla Grodd, Aquaman, Superman, & Green Lantern.***

DC's detailed fabric-costumed ***13" Deluxe Collector Figure*** line continues in January with the release of ***Power Girl***, the newest female addition to the popular line of 1:6 scale figures.

Just in time for the release of the animated feature, DC and DC Direct join forces to present the ***Superman Vs. Doomsday Action Figure Collector Set.*** This August-release set features the sold-out classic DC Direct Superman action figure as well as the sold-out Doomsday figure, along with a copy of ***The Death of Superman*** collected edition.

DC's ***Women of the DC Universe Bust*** line continued in 2008 as it spotlights the work of a new artist, *Terry Dodson.* The line begins in January with the release of ***Women of the DC Universe Series 2: Wonder Woman Bust***, sculpted by *Jack Mathews.* The line will continue in 2008 with busts of ***Starfire, Cheetah, Batwoman, Silver Banshee, Wonder Girl, Catwoman*** and ***Huntress.***

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in August

The B.P.R.D. is changing. Abe's encounter in Indonesia has brought a new member to the Bureau and Johann finds himself in possession of a very valuable commodity. But not all the changes are for the better, and the B.P.R.D. will need all of its new resources to handle the sinister forces that have wormed their way into the heart of the Bureau's headquarters as the line blurs between the hunters of the supernatural and their prey. See the struggle continue in ***BPRD: The Killing Ground***, a five-part limited series by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, &* Guy Davis* that picks up where ***BPRD: Garden of Souls*** left off.

Bride of the Water God, a romantic fantasy by *Mi-Kyung Yun*, focuses on a woman offered as a sacrifice in order to end a long drought... but rather than begin killed, she finds herself being wooed by the Water God himself!

Buffy's new position as leader and figure-

head of the world's five hundred most powerful women has made her a bigger target than ever before. "The Chain" tells the story of one of the decoy "Buffy" Slayers, a tale personally important to series creator *Joss Whedon*. Guest artist *Paul Lee pencils* the first standalone issue of Season Eight in ***Buffy: The Vampire Slayer #5.***

Dark Horse's line of syroco-styled sculptures of comic book heroes continues with ***Classic Comic Book Characters #7: The Green Lama***, depicting the Golden Age hero in all of his glory. This sculpture is limited to 350 copies, so don't wait for a second chance!

In the end, everybody *dies*! Actually, not just in the end—they also die in the beginning and in the middle, and in all the pages in between in ***Emily the Strange #1: The Death Issue.***

Neil Gaiman reunites with *Michael Zulli* for ***The Facts in the Case of the Departure of Miss Finch***, a fifty-six page hardcover adapting the outré mystery short story by Gaiman. This "mostly true story" combines the author's trademark magic realism with Zulli's sumptuous paintings, and has been newly rewritten for this hardcover.

In the future, humanity is in a seemingly endless war with an alien race. The struggle is dominated by giant war machines called Gear. Only the best and the brightest are allowed to drive these behemoths. Thirteen-year-old Teresa Gottlieb has just entered the most prestigious military academy, known to all as Gear School, to try and become one of those elite. But on top of all the usual troubles that a seventh-grader has to put up with—boys, social cliques, hellish instructors—she also has to deal with three-story-tall robots and alien invasions! Follow her exploits in ***Gear School***, an original graphic novel by *Adam Gallardo, Nuria Peris, & Sergio Sandoval.*

Mark Evanier & Sergio Aragones join forces to present a new Groo misadventure in ***The Groo 25th Anniversary Special***, a fifty-six-page oneshot that celebrates a quarter century of silliness. This issue also features "The Groo Alphabet," a primer of that hero's friends and foes (mostly foes), followed by a special illustrated text story by Sergio and Mark on how this comic came to be and why it just won't go away.

Dark Horse pays tribute to Marvel's classic ***Savage Sword of Conan*** magazine with the release of the ***Savage Sword Bust*** collection, beginning (appropriately enough!) with a ***Conan Bust*** sculpted by *Tony Cipriano.* Future busts will spotlight other classic *Robert E. Howard* characters who played a prominent role in that fondly-remembered magazine;

Matthew & Shawn Fillbach return to the ***Star Wars*** galaxy with ***Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume Nine***, featuring an original eighty-age graphic novel in digest size.

Dark Horse continues its fumetti line with the release of ***Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones Photo Comic***, which uses still captures from the film in lieu of illustrations.

Once, the Umbrella Academy was unstoppable. Under the tutelage of their guardian and mentor, Dr. Reginald Hargreeves, its members spent their childhoods fighting evil and honing their extraordinary gifts... until something went terribly wrong. Now, nine years later, the estranged members of the Umbrella Academy are reunited by the death of the only parent

they've ever known and the rise of a new and terrible threat. Will they be able to overcome their history for long enough to save the world—one more time? Find out in ***The Umbrella Academy: Apocalypse Suite #1***, conceived and written by *Gerard Way*, lead singer of My Chemical Romance, with art by *Gabriel Ba.* (Considering how well the Free Comic Book Day preview of this book was received by fans, this one has *hit* written all over it!)

Yoshitaka Amano's illustrative output is the star of the appropriately-entitled ***Yoshitaka Amano: The Collected Art of Vampire Hunter D***, a massive 392-page slipcased hardcover featuring paintings, line-art illustrations, and photography by the internationally renowned artist.

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Aliens Vs. Predator Omnibus Volume Two***, a 448-page volume collecting *Chris Claremont's* ***Aliens Versus Predator: Deadliest of the Species*** and other AVP tales;
- ***Conan and the Midnight God***, collecting the series by *Joshua Dysart & Will Conrad*, including the ***Age of Conan*** comic originally available only as a videogame magazine extra;
- ***Ghost in the Shell 1.5: Human-Error Processor***, collecting the series by *Masamune Shirow*;
- ***Harvey Classics Volume Two: Richie Rich***, featuring almost 500 pages—and one hundred stories—of classic tales of the pool little rich boy produced by *Sid Jacobson, Warren Kremer, Steve Muffatti, & Ernie Colon*;
- ***Hellboy Volume Seven: The Troll Witch and Others***, featuring short stories from ***The Dark Horse Book of the Dead, Witchcraft, Hauntings, & Monsters; Hellboy: Wizard 1/2***; and ***Hellboy: Makoma***, along with a previously unpublished Hellboy story by *P. Craig Russell & Mike Mignola*, along with sketches and story notes;
- ***Little Lulu Volume Seventeen: The Valentine***, featuring 232 pages of charming Lulu classics by *John Stanley & Irving Tripp*;
- ***Oh My Goddess! Volume Seven***, a Japanese-format reissue of the *Kosuka Fujishima* romantic fantasy;
- ***Signal to Noise Second Edition***, a redesigned and remastered version of the *Neil Gaiman-Dave McKean* graphic novel that adds three related short stories, an additional chapter created for the CD release, and a new introduction by *Dave McKean* along with the original by *Jonathan Carrol* and the radio drama introduction by *Neil Gaiman*;
- ***Star Wars: 30th Anniversary Collection Volume Eight—Splinter of the Mind's Eye***, collecting the *Terry Austin-Chris Sprouse* adaptation of the *Alan Dean Foster* ***Star Wars*** novel; and
- ***Star Wars Omnibus: Tales of the Jedi Volume One***, a hefty 440-page compendium featuring ***The Golden Age of the Sith, The Fall of the Sith Empire, Knights of the Old Republic***, and ***The Freedon Nadd Uprising.***

Ins & Outs

Out: ***Loveless #s 19 & 20.*** Orders for both issues of the Vertigo Western series have been cancelled and will be resolicited at a later date.

In: A *Bill Sienkiewicz* 50:50 variant cover for ***The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive #14***, the second issue in a hush-hush major story arc that DC promises will bring major changes to the ***Flash*** series. Sienkiewicz's variant cover joins the already-announced *Joshua Middleton* cover.

Out: ***Loners #2***, which has followed the trend set by the first issue and has sold out within days of release. "Wow! I could not be happier with fan and retailer reaction to Loners," writer *C.B. Cebulski* said. "With *Jason Pearson's* eye-catching covers pulling people in, *Karl Moline & Christina Strain's* amazing interior work seals the deal for fans of Marvel's newest team of teen heroes!" Marvel has no plans for a second printing.

In: A second printing of Zenescope Entertainment's sold-out ***Return to Wonderland #0***; the second printing will feature a wraparound cover combining the art for the two first printing covers. "We are rushing back to print and will try to get more #0's on the shelf before #1 hits," Zenescope president *Joe Brusha* said. Return to Wonderland follows the story of Calie Liddle, daughter of the now adult and mentally ill Alice, as she journeys to the twisted realm of Wonderland to uncover the mystery behind Wonderland's origins and her

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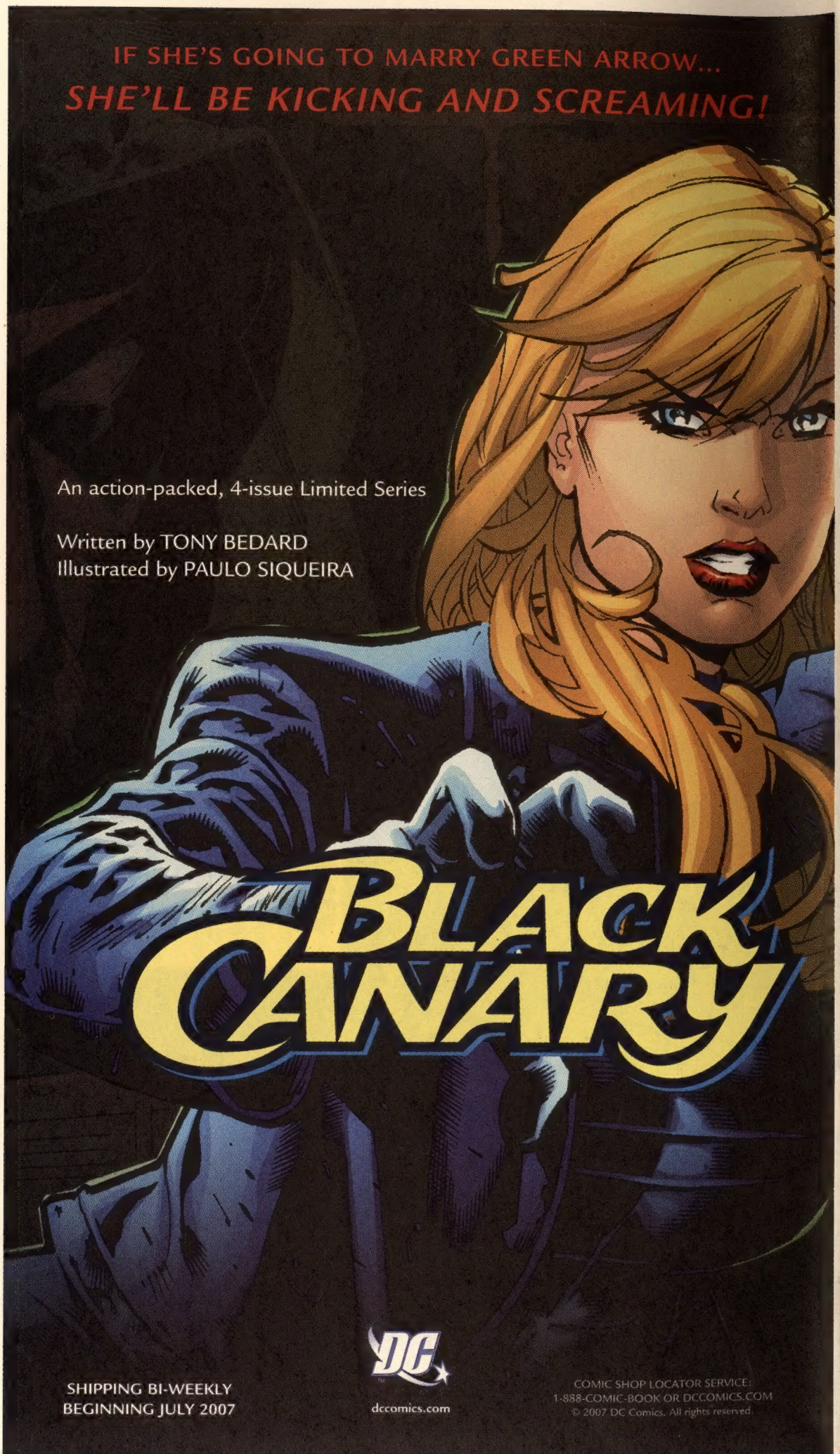
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